

Patient-Centered Health Advisory Council

RECOMMENDATIONS

Medicaid Managed Care

1. The Council recommends robust oversight of and engagement with MCOs by government and engaged citizen groups, as well as evaluation of the impact on the success of existing programs such as Maternal and Child Health, I-Smile, Family Planning, Medical Health Homes, and safety net providers.
2. The Council recommends performance measures be made public, that all possible steps are taken to ensure transparency in reporting by MCOs, and that procedures for prior authorizations for medications and diagnostic procedures are efficient and easy to use in order to avoid or minimize gaps in care.
3. The Council supports the establishment of a dedicated Medicaid managed care ombudsman position to protect the health, safety, welfare and rights of individuals covered by Medicaid by investigating complaints, seeking resolutions to problems and providing advocacy with the goal of enhancing quality of life and care.

Workforce

1. The Council supports enabling legislation to allow Local Boards of Health to voluntarily enter into larger regional units or other innovative arrangements in order to provide improved services to their residence.
2. The Council supports fully funding Iowa's Rural Primary Care Loan Repayment Program. In order to strengthen economic incentives to attract primary care physicians to locate and practice in Iowa, the Council believes this is an important tactic to address the impending primary care shortage in non-metropolitan areas of Iowa.
3. The Council supports IDPH's evaluation of their health workforce development programs. The evaluation will determine the extent to which the current programs are addressing the health workforce needs in Iowa. The evaluation will identify barriers to program success, gaps in the scope and availability of the programs and associated health workforce data, and make recommendations to improve outcomes. This information will provide a foundation for policymakers and stakeholders, to make decisions on resource allocation and policy changes that are needed to address the health workforce needs in Iowa. The Council would like to revisit this topic once the evaluation is complete.

Aging in Place

1. The Council supports policies and programs that support a health care system that provides services focused on empowering shared decision-making that allow older Iowans to live in their own homes.